

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Karl-Heinz STAFFA et al.  
Title: COLLECTOR TUBE FOR A HEAT  
TRANSFER UNIT AND METHOD  
FOR PRODUCING SAME  
Appl. No.: Unknown  
Filing Date: September 14, 2001  
Examiner: Unknown  
Art Unit: Unknown

*H. Heron*  
# 2  
3/7/2002

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents cited in the International Search Report of Applicant's International Application No. PCT/EP00/01681. A copy of the International Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached.

Copies of the documents A16 through A21 are not being provided since copies should have been provided directly by WIPO under an exchange program between the PTO, the EPO and the JPO.

Also submitted herewith are documents listed on the Form PTO-1449, which are independent of the International Search Report.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference

any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

#### **TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted or cited in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.

#### **RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

The relevance of documents A1, A2, A6, A7, A9, and A14 is described in the present specification.

The relevance of Document A3 is discussed in the International Search Report.

Document A8 relates to a method and apparatus for producing a header tank of a heat exchanger.

Document A10 relates to a heat exchanger with a collector tube which has slit walls formed from deformed wall sectors of a collector tube which are of constant wall thickness over their wall length.

Document A11 relates to a collector chamber for a heat transfer unit which consists of a folded elongated box with a longitudinal seam and oval flanged holes for flat pipes.

Document A12 relates to a flat tube heat exchanger with a deformed flat tube sector which has an end sector of tubes at a connection component end twisted and/or bent to form a section of smaller cross sections.

Document A13 relates to a heating pipe for a heat exchanger which comprises of a connecting pipe with an extended section which has reinforcing beads.

Document A15 relates to a heat exchanger for motor vehicles.

English translations of the foreign language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609). English language abstracts are attached.

Document A10 is a foreign counterpart of Document A4.

Document A13 is a foreign counterpart of Document A5.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 14, 2001

By



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